

DUSK BUSTERS

From *Dusk Till Dawn* stars, and real-life couple, **Eiza Gonzalez** (who plays Santanico Pandemonium) and **DJ Cotrona** (Seth Gecko) give us the lowdown on their killer series



Clockwise from left: The cast and crew with creator Robert Rodriguez; Legendary Mexican actor Danny Trejo as The Regulator; DJ taking aim as Seth Gecko

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There are bad guys and then there are worse guys.

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Hey guys, thanks for chatting to us. Have either of you been to Australia?

DJ COTRONA (DJ): Yeah, I lived in Sydney for a while when I was working with [director] George Miller on a now defunct project. While I was down there I got hit with the whole drop bear thing. Are you guys still doing that? [Actor] Armie Hammer and I walked through Sydney for the first two weeks, like idiots,

terrified of these fictitious characters we were told were ripping down the city. And I also love how you guys throw around the word 'legend' when speaking highly of a person. It's cool.

EIZA GONZALEZ (EG): I've never had the opportunity to come to Australia but it's number one on my list! I've heard all about the beautiful beaches, the really fun people and relaxed vibe. And every Australian person I've met has the coolest energy and a really fun, laidback attitude. Oh, and your surfers punch sharks when they attack – that's really badass.

What appeals to you most about working on *From Dusk Till Dawn*?

EG: I'm really excited to be working on this show. The first season basically all developed into one day, from dusk till dawn, and we revisited the movie by showing a bit of what Quentin [Tarantino] and Robert [Rodriguez] wrote, but it took a different turn, by the end of the season one, in order to explode a second season out of it.

DJ: Yeah, the second season has so much going on – it's faster-paced and the audience get to see these amazing, crazy-psychos characters in a much deeper world. It's a little dark but as the show goes on people will love it because all the morals and values are erased and you get hooked into the fact the show is dark and fun, as well as thrilling and gory, but still has some comedy to it.

How did you research your roles? Did you watch the original movie then just go from there?

EG: I definitely watched Salma Hayek in the movie before I went for the part, but once I was cast for the show I decided I didn't want to copy her movie character because I decided I needed to take a different turn. Repeating what she did wasn't going to add anything at all. So, the trick with all of us in the cast is to always find different sides to our characters and it's easy when you have such rich characters. I lean towards the darker side to her and wanted to keep the mysterious, evil and confused side she has. And it's really

great as I believe I have the most fights in the show so I get a lot of physical activity. You get to see the very sophisticated side of Santanico, which is the vampire side, but you also get to see this horrific, really aggressive creature running around. It gives a really good balance to my character.

How would you best describe the relationship between your characters?

EIZA: The relationship is very interesting. It's a hate/hate relationship.

DJ: It's not good. Gecko brothers Seth and Richie are a co-dependant crime duo, and have been together side-by-side forever, whereby this Santanico character is teased as a supernatural entity who is ultimately destroying us. Seth feels that this creature has ripped his brother away from him and at the end of the first season we completely destroy him. At the start of the second season Seth is a broken man. He's given up, he's on drugs, and it's a case of how can he rebuild himself. As that goes down, Santanico and Seth interact and slowly start to see similarities in some of the scenarios they've been through. There are no good guys on this show. There are bad guys and then there are worse guys.

You guys are dating in real life. How is it living and working together?

EIZA: I hate him. I detest him. I don't want to see him. It's like, "Why are you here again?" No, the thing is, the cast get along really well. Not many people know this but we all lived in the same apartment complex for six months, so it became a little family. It's really hard to find a cast who gets along with each other with no issues. Like, there are literally no issues with anyone in this cast and I know this sounds boring, because I'm not giving you any dirt, but we all get along so well.

DJ: Every relationship scenario is unique and we're very lucky that we get along in a lot of different ways. We shoot the show in Austin, Texas at Troublemaker Studios, far away from Hollywood, so, as Eiza said, it feels like a very tight-knit family and it works so great. We are all in each other's hair, we are great friends off-camera and we all have a fantastic time. We love the job, we love our characters and we love each other.



Loving their work: Santanico Pandemonium (actress Eiza Gonzalez) and Seth Gecko (DJ Cotrona) in action in *From Dusk Till Dawn*

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